SHRI CHITTA BASU: Madam, my first complaint is that the question is not completely answered. Part (b) has not been answered. Part (b) asks, what is the quantity of synthetics imported during the last three years, year-wise? In the statement, Madam, there is no mention about it. And also there is no mention in the statement to the fact whether it has got any effect on the jute industry itself. Therefore, these two questions are not answered. Apart from that, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government is aware of the fact that at present the capacity of the synthetic bag industry is about one lakh tonnes. One lakh tonnes of synthetic bags can replace five lakh tonnes of gunny bags in our country. At present market demand for gunny bags is estimated to be 11 lakh tonnes. This means that almost 50 per cent of the gunny bags market has been taken over by the synthetic bags. This is the crucial point. By the import of P.V. granule, the synthetic indusry's capacity is being expanded, and this expansion means the abolition of the gunny market. Therefore, may I know from the hon. Minister whether this is not the main reason for the crisis in the jute industry. Having regard to that, would the Government kindly take steps of taking away import of granule from the OGL and also regulating the capacity of the synthetic industry so that it may not be further expanded ?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: At present, we are importing 18,000 tonnes for other industries. There are so many other industries. This raw material is not for jute bage alone. According to mandatory provisions, in case of foodgrains, 100 per cent jute bags are to be used; for sugar also it is 100 per cent which we must use; for cement, it is 75 per cent; for fertilizers, it is 50 per cent. . .

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Why not cent per cent?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: May I add? The total requirement in 1985-86 of HDPE and PP was 1,55,000 tonnes. Out of this, only 40,000 tonnes had been used for synthetic industry, that means, only 25 per cent, which means that granules are used for other purposes, other than woven sacks. So, there are lot of uses, for milk packaging, for water packaging, for film lining etc. So, we still have to allow imports to bridge this gap. It is not just imports; we have a number of indigenous plants which are coming up in the country. As I have already mentioned, there is one in Haldia which is coming up. There will be one in Hazira in Gujarat, and one in Maharashtra, besides PIL expansion. So, we are taking steps to restrict imports by having more indigenous production in the country.

*385. *The uestiqons (Shrimati Kanak Mukherjee and Dr. R. K. Poddarq were absent. oFr answer, vide col. . . .in fra.)*

Criteria for Classifying Power Intensive Factories

*386. DR. H. P. SHARMA†:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria on the basis of which a factory is classified as power-intensive factory, requiring power as a raw material; and

(b) whether there are any directions issued by the Central Government for ensuring supply of a minimum percentage of requirement of power per annum to such industries; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) There are no specific criteria prescribed for classification of a factory as a power intensive unit. Industries where the process of manufacturing requires a large quantum of power and the cost of power consumed is a significant component of the production cost, could be regarded as power intensive industries.

(b) No such directions have been issued by the Central Government.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. H. P. Sharma.

DR. H. P. SHARMA: The answer blindly denies that there is any classification like a power-inteisive unit. But this answer is totally at variance with another answer given in the last session of Rajya Sabha; I do not have the question No. and date, but an answer about Orissa was given that there was 75 per cent cut in power-intensive industry and 50 per cent cut in the case of large industries. So, the present answer is misleading the House. You say there is a cut; you recognise that there is a power-intensive unit category, but here you deny. My question is, one of the strategies employed was to ask the power consuming industries to instal captive power units and a handsome Central subsidy was to be given. My information is that only a very small fraction of the subsidy is given. Would the hon. Minister inform the House as to what has been the total subsidy which is payable by the Central Government, and what has been the actual payment so far.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: As far as I am aware—though he has not mentioned any reference to the question and reply—I do not think there is any contradiction involved in this. There are guidelines in regard to priority in supply of power to industries. But as far as distribution of power among various customers is concerned, it is not done by us. It is the discretion of the State Governments. The Central Government has issued guidelines to the States for according priority in power supply to essential sectors like agriculture, infrastructural industries, industries of strategic importance and continuous-processing industries. Such industries consume nearly 56 per cent of power. Even out of this, there are eight industries which consumer power in greater quantity; aluminium, cement, fertiliser, paper, textiles, chemicals, coal, iron and steel. As far as the other question of the hon. Member is concerned about subsidy and all that, I do not think it is directly concerned with this question. He can put a separate question.

DR. H.P. SHARMA: My question, central question, was about the payment of subsidy which the hon Minister says does not come under this question. I certainly feel that this is connected with the power-hungry industries, consumption of power, making power available. Here. the hon. Minister is trying to get away from answering this question.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Madam, I will be the last person to get away from answering the question. I leave it to your judgement. Is it at all directly concerned with the main question? But we can certainly get the information which the hon. Member wants.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member can go and see the Minister in her chamber and sort this out.

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : माननीय उपसभापति महोदया, जैसा कि माननीय शर्मा जी ने कहा कि पिछले सत्र में जवाब दिया गया था, उसी संदर्भ में मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूं कि उड़ीसा की कुछ पावर इंटेसिव यूनिट के लिये 75 प्रतिशत बिजली की कटौती पिछले तीन वर्षों में की गई है । जिसके फलस्वरूप कास्टिक सोडा, नमक का तेजाब और क्लोरिन जैसे आवश्यक कच्चे माल का उत्पादन करने वाले इंपोर्ट सब्सीट्यूशंस के उत्पादन में कमी आती जा रही है और वे सिक यूनिट बनती जा रही है और वे मौत के कगार पर यानी बन्द होने की ओर बड़ी तेजी से कदम बढ़ा रहे हैं । महोदया, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि आवश्यक औद्योगिक कच्चा माल बनाने वाले, इंपोर्ट सब्सीट्यूशंस का उत्पादन करने वाले पावर इंटेसिव कारखानों के लिये क्या सरकार से कोई विशेष आदेश राज्य सरकार को न्यूनतम स्तर पर साधारण मूल्य पर बिजली की सप्लाई करने के लिये दिये हैं ? यदि नहीं दिये हैं तो क्यों नहीं दिये हैं । महोदया, बी पार्ट मेरा यह है कि . . .

उपसभापति : उत्तर देने के लिये टाइम रखिये ।

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : इससे बात और स्पष्ट हो जायगी, मेरी जिज्ञासा स्पष्ट हो जायेगी कि यह जो इंटेसिव कारखानों में जो कास्टिक सोडा जैसे जरूरी पदार्थ बनते हैं और जो इंपोर्ट सब्सीट्यूशंस हैं, उनमें

बड़ी मात्रा में बिजली की कटौती की जाती है और उन कारखानों को बहुत ऊंचे मूल्यों पर बाहर से बिजली लेनी पड़ती है । इससे उनका उत्पादन मूल्य बहुत बढ़ जाता है और इसलिये ऐसे कच्चे माल का उत्पादन देश में करने के स्थान पर उनको बाहर से मंगाना पड़ता है । तो . . . (व्यवधान)

उपसभापति : आपको जवाब नहीं चाहिये क्या ?

डा० रत्नाकर पांडेय : इस संदर्भ में क्या किया जा रहा है यह मैं जानना चाहता हूं ।

श्रीमती सुशीला रोहतगी : माननीया, हमें पूरी सहानुभूति है, हमें दुख भी है कि ये मौत के कगार की ओर तीव्रता से अग्रसर हो रहे हैं यदि हम इसको रोक सकते तो इसको रोक लेते । पर यह, जैसा कि मैंने पहले भी कहा है कि यह राज्य सरकार की ओर से है । फिर भी हम लोग उड़ीसा सरकार से इस बारे में बात करेंगे और देखेंगे कि इसके लिये क्या प्रयास किया जा सकता है । यदि माननीय सदस्य हमको धन दे दें तो शायद हम ज्यादा बिजली का उत्पादन कर सकें और ज्यादा बिजली इन लोगों को उपलब्ध करा सकें ।

SHRI P. BABUL REDDY : Madam, it is well known that there is chronic deficiency in power in our country. Even States like Andhra Pradesh which are supposed to be surplus impose cuts during summer and when there is failure of monsoon. Under these circumstances, categorisation of industries as power-intensive carries with it certain obligations and difficulties. Therefore, there should be specific guidelines. It should not be according to the foot of the Chancellor. Lack of guidelines would lead to discrimination. I find from the answer that they do not have specific guidelines. They merely say significant consumption. This does not satisfy us. I would like to know whether the Government will issue specific, categorical, guidelines in this matter.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI : Madam, I have already answered this. Guidelines are guidelines. It is for the State Governments to carry them out or change them.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Black Marketing of LPG Refills

*382. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the black-marketing of LPG refills in the country;

(b) whether the main reason for black-marketing is the existence of more than 25 per cent unauthorised LPG connections in the country;

(c) whether any inquiry has been made as to how the refills are obtained for such connections; and

(d) whether Government are considering regularisation of these connections; if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Government are aware that there exist some fake or unauthorised LPG connections.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Supply of refills by unauthorised consumers is believed to be obtained through unscrupulous elements in the distribution network besides holders of double-bottle connections.

(d) The oil companies can regularise those irregular connections where the connection is not in the name of the holder but of someone else; this is done after due verification and after obtaining a letter of authority from the formal holder of the connection.